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Radio Device with Remote Control

This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP99/01055 which has an International filing date of February 18, 1999, which designated the United States of America.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a radio device with a plurality of adjustable transmitting and receiving functions suitable for transmitting information in a complex wireless transmission system, e.g., in the shortwave range.

2. Description of the Background Art

It is known that stationary radio devices or radio devices installed in motor vehicles can be operated by using remote control devices positioned locally a few meters away or at a greater distance, whereby the status of these radio devices can be monitored and transmissions/reception information can be transmitted by these remote control devices. Therefore, a suitable interface for a cable connection between a radio device and a remote control device is provided on the radio device.

There is an increasing demand for free mobility of the user in space or over land without being tied to the radio device by cables or the like. This demand is encountered in particular with highly mobile applications, for example, tactical military campaigns or other spontaneous actions such as rescue and emergency actions.

In the field of telephones, it is known that with so-called cordless telephones, for example, a hand-held device can be connected by wireless link to a mobile base unit (German Patent No. 4,237,395). Not only speech information but also program parameters for the base unit can be transmitted over these wireless links. Thus, for example, control commands can be transmitted to an electrical appliance such as a washing machine, or status information can be obtained from such an electric appliance by providing the appliance with such a transmitting and receiving device connected to a central telephone system (European Patent No. 800,303). However, this arrangement, which was developed for telephone systems, is unable to meet the high demands made of radio devices having a plurality of complex operating functions, especially since information must also be transmitted with the radio devices at the same time.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a system with which the above-mentioned demand for free mobility of the user can also be met with such wireless transmission systems where high demands are made of the operating functions.

According to the invention, a wireless link is used for transmitting the operating functions as well as transmitting information between a remote control device and the actual radio device. This wireless link also has appropriate protective measures to ensure error-free transmission. Thus, such a radio device which has a plurality of complex operating functions and is used for information transmission in a complex wireless transmission system such as a shortwave transmission system can also be remotely controlled and remotely monitored by the user, while the user can nevertheless move freely in space or over land.

With the system according to the invention, the mobile remote control device is connected directly to the radio device instead of being connected by way of an intermediate central telephone exchange, as is the case with the known cordless telephone systems (European Patent No. 800,303), so this system is also

extremely reliable in operation and cannot be paralyzed by failure of the central exchange.

The additional protective measures in wireless transmission ensure that unauthorized persons cannot intervene in the operating and information transmission system. The measure according to this invention is suitable for transmitting speech as well as other information, possibly even in a time-division multiplex method. With the radio device according to this invention, the actual complex devices for setting the transmission and reception functions and for establishing the connection remain in the actual radio device, and only the operating and monitoring commands together with the speech information or data information are exchanged over the remote control wireless link.

With respect to the choice of the transmission frequency, the power, the coding (if used) and the data rate, the remote control wireless link is designed to permit secure transmission over a distance of several hundred meters, so that the security of the transmission is not significantly inferior to that required for the system as a whole. This is achieved, for example, by using a suitable power management method for the wireless link either optionally or simultaneously, using a secure transmission protocol such as ARQ for information transmission or using a band spread. Encoding is also possible on the remote control wireless link to protect the control data, monitoring data and information data.

Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed

description given hereinbelow and the accompanying drawing, which is given by way of illustration only, and thus, is not limitive of the present invention, and wherein the single figure illustrates a block diagram of a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The figure shows a conventional stationary or semi-mobile radio device 1 which has a plurality of complex functions and is suitable for transmitting information in a complex wireless transmission system, e.g., a shortwave transmission system. An interface 2 for a wireless connection over a remote control wireless link 3 is provided on radio device 1; through which radio device 1 has a wireless connection to a locally positioned remote control device 4 over the wireless link 3. The transmission frequency of this wireless link 3 is adjusted to the operational scenario and may be selected between a shortwave connection and an optical light (infrared) connection. The remote control device 4, which can be hand-held, is battery powered, has a display field for the operating functions of radio device 1 and a corresponding operating field with which the user can set the individual operating functions of the radio device. In addition, a status display of the radio device in the display field is also possible. In addition, an interface 5 for input and output of the information to be transmitted over the radio device is also provided, the information being, for example, speech or other digital data. Thus, not only is the locally positioned radio device 1 operated and monitored over wireless link 3 but also the actual transmission of information to the remote control device 4 takes place over this wireless link.

Additional protective measures to ensure error-free transmission of operating data and information data are also provided on wireless link 3. Wireless link 3 is equipped with suitable channel coding, for example, and data transmission is handled according to a known transmission protocol. In addition, measures for encoding and decoding the transmitted data may be provided to prevent unauthorized persons from penetrating the transmission link. In addition, measures to protect against outside interference may be provided, e.g., through a

suitable signal spread (use of a suitable method of sudden frequency change or other coding measures).

If radio device 1 already has a remote controller 6, which is connected by a cable 7 to the radio device 1, a suitable interface 2 may also be provided on the remote controller 6, so that a wireless remote control link 3 to the locally positioned remote control device 4 can be established, and again in this case, input and output of information to be transmitted over radio device 1 may also be provided by way of an interface 5. Thus, not only remote control data and remote monitoring data but also information can be transmitted over wireless link 3.

The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are to be included within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

ABSTRACT

A radio device with a plurality of adjustable transmitting and receiving functions is provided. According to the invention, the operating functions can be remotely controlled and remotely monitored via a remote control device. To this end, the remote control device is connected via a radio relay to an interface of the radio device, to which additional protective measure for securing a fault-free transmission of the operating functions and information are assigned. In addition, a device is provided on the remote control device for the input and output of the information to be transmitted with the radio device.